

3-87620

2 / 10 / 1958

**MEMORANDUM FOR: DEPUTY DIRECTOR (INTELLIGENCE)**

**SUBJECT: Comment on Special Reserve Panel Report  
On Nuclear War**

1. This Panel study has been circulated throughout the Clandestine Services, with invitation to all elements to comment. The majority of the returns have been brief expressions of endorsement, but several of the staffs and divisions have taken the trouble to discuss the report at some length. The attached detailed comments are a consolidation of their reactions. As the staff having primary interest in the subject, PPC will be pleased to discuss the report with you or with the Panel.
2. The overall reaction in the Clandestine Services is that the report is thoughtful, constructive, and provocative. There is general agreement with the conclusions and recommendations. Many questions are raised but more in the sense of asking what the Panel meant than as disagreement with what it says.
3. In this memorandum, I will mention just one specific point. In Recommendation No. 1, the Panel says that "early warning operations must be given a clear-cut priority over wartime requirements including those placed by the military on CIA." This implies that early warning does not have this kind of priority now. Although the Panel may not have intended such an implication, it should be noted that early warning has had top priority among Clandestine Services activities over a period of several years, and most certainly a heavy priority in relation to wartime requirements placed by the military. DCID 4/6 and the CS General Plan for FY 1958, 1959, and 1960 clearly assert early warning as the First Priority Objective for the Clandestine Services.
4. As a general evaluation, the Panel has well identified the basic problems which nuclear war poses for CIA. It has constructively and usefully stated the lines which have to be explored to find the means of coping with the problems. This study will be taken into full account as we assess our war planning in the light of these factors.

[Redacted Signature]

**RICHARD HELMS**

**Acting Deputy Director (Plans)**

Attachment

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HS/CSG- (777)

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**SECRET** (When Filled In)

AREA OR COUNTRY(S)	APPROVAL	INITIALS & TOPICS	PERSONALITIES	DOCUMENT
HQ	CIA	Nuclear Warfare		DATE: 27 Feb 1958
	PPC			through
	WE			21 April 1958
	DDP			CLASS: S
	DDI			NO. 1
IDENTIFICATION OF DOCUMENT (author, form, address, title & length) Three memos, Subject: Comment on Special Reserve Panel Report on Nuclear War; 10 pp.				LOCATION: HS/CSG-172 1727

**ABSTRACT**

First memo sends study on nuclear warfare to DDP components for comment. Second memo is WE comment. Third memo is from DDP to DDI containing detailed consolidated comments prepared by PPC.

(Also see: HS/CSG-1726, 1728, 1729 and 1730)

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